

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

June 23, 1951

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Dear General Smith:

Reference is made to your letters of 5 March and 30 April 1951, and your memorandum for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Personnel Policies, dated 23 May 1951, concerning recruiting and training career personnel for CIA.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff inform me that the Services can train up to 200 personnel per year for the Central Intelligence Agency. The Services feel, however, that in view of:

- a. The difficulty which the Services are having in procuring Reserve officers in sufficient numbers to meet their own requirements, and
- b. The fact that the supply of ROTC graduates will barely meet the demands of the Services during the next ten-year period,

the Central Intelligence Agency should retain as its own responsibility the procurement of this personnel from sources other than the Army, Navy and Air ROTC, the Service Academies, and the active Military Establishment.

Another factor bearing upon the selection of ROTC graduates for a career in the Central Intelligence Agency is the fact that it is quite probable that the same physical standards necessary for acceptance into the ROTC program would not necessarily be required for CIA personnel. The Joint Chiefs of Staff suggest, therefore, that you discuss with the Chief of Staff, Air Force, the Chief of Staff, Army, and the Chief of Naval Operations, the practicability of selection by you, from sources other than the ROTC program, of the 200 college graduates, and the broad aspects of their proposed subsequent military training. The sources thus available to you represent the great majority of the college graduates of the nation.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff also suggest, if you desire ROTC graduates, that a discussion of the practicability of sponsorship by the Central Intelligence Agency of an increase

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in the size of the ROTC program to fulfill the requirements of the Central Intelligence Agency may prove to be fruitful. Insofar as the retention by Reserve officers of their Reserve officer status after release by the Services and employment by the Central Intelligence Agency is concerned, the Services' objection to this proposal rests entirely in the fact that current policy is designed to insure that the maximum number of Reservists are available for extended active duty at any time, and it would appear that such would not be the case, in the event of a national emergency, insofar as personnel employed by CIA is concerned.

It is suggested that you make arrangements for discussions of this subject with General Vandenberg, General Collins and Admiral Sherman.

Faithfully yours,

/s/ G. C. MARSHALL

Lt. General Walter B. Smith  
Director of Central Intelligence